

REMARKS

Claims 1-5, 9-13 and 17 have been amended. Claims 6-8 and 14-16 have been amended.
Claims 1-17 remain for further consideration.

The rejections shall be taken up in the order presented in the Official Action.

2-3. Claims 1-2, 9-10 and 17 currently stand rejected for allegedly being obvious in view of the combined subject matter disclosed in U.S. Patent 6,366,927 to Meek et al (hereinafter "Meek") and U.S. Patent 6,366,851 to Chojnacki (hereinafter "Chojnacki").

These claims have been cancelled without prejudice.

4. Claims 3-5 and 11-13 currently stand rejected for allegedly being obvious in view of the combined teachings of Meek, Chojnacki, and U.S. Patent 5,610,815 to Gudat (hereinafter "Gudat").

These claims have been cancelled without prejudice.

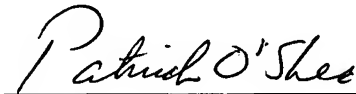
5. The indication that claims 6-8 and 14-16 recite allowable subject matter and would be allowed if amended to no longer depend from a rejected base claim is noted and appreciated.

Claims 6-8 and 14-16 have each been substantially rewritten into independent claim format.

Reconsideration and allowance of claims 6-8 and 14-16 is respectfully requested.

If a telephone interview could assist in the prosecution of this application, please call the undersigned attorney.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, reading "Patrick O'Shea", written over a horizontal line.

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